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ABSTRACT

Based on information obtained from the California State University (CSU) system, and the California Postsecondary Education Commission, this report examines Riverside Community College (RCC) students who transferred to CSU, focusing on the period between 1985 and 1989. The study presents data on the total numbers of California Community Colleges (CCC) transfer students from 1970 to 1989, the numbers of RCC students transferring during this same period, CSU campus of transfer, total upper-division and lower-division transfers from 1985 to 1989, grade point averages (GPA's) earned at CSU from 1985 to 1989, field of study, and total transfer student percentages by ethnicity. Highlighted findings include the following: (1) while RCC experienced a 17% drop in the number of students transferring to CSU between 1975 and 1989, all CCC's had a 21% decline during the same period; (2) between fall 1986 and fall 1987, RCC had a 19% increase in the number of CSU transfers, while the CCC system as the whole experienced a 2% increase; (3) about 80% of all RCC and CCC transfers to CSU were admitted to the upper division; (4) in fall 1986, RCC upper-division transfers to CSU had a 2.79 GPA at RCC, which rose to 2.84 after transferring to CSU; and (5) for the last four years, RCC upper-division transfers have had higher GPA's upon transferring to CSU than either all CCC transfers or CSU natives. (PAA)

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RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS

WHO TRANSFERRED TO

THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

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Office of Research and Planning

January, 1991

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RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS WHO TRANSFERRED TO THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Introduction

RCC has been involved in tracking the progress of its transfer students for many years. The California Community Colleges received their first annual system-wide report in March of 1982 on the academic performance of their students who entered CSU in the fall of 1980. The format for the first report lasted for five years (fall entry terms 1980 through 1984). Beginning with community college students entering CSU in the fall term of 1985, the information provided by CSU was modified.

This report includes RCC students who transferred to CSU between 1985 and 1989, although sections A, B and C contain some earlier statistics. A previous study covering the 1980-84 period may be obtained from RCC's Office of Research and Planning.

There are two sources of information for our students who transfer to CSU: CSU and the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC). The figures from the two institutions do not always agree. This document uses CSU reports as the primary source, and uses CPEC figures only when they are not available from CSU.

A. Number of Transfers

Figure 1 shows the number of first time fall RCC transfers to campuses of the California State University. RCC peaked in 1975 with over 400 students transferring; since that time, the numbers have hovered between 300 and 350, dropping below 300 in 1986 for the first time since 1970.

FIGURE 1

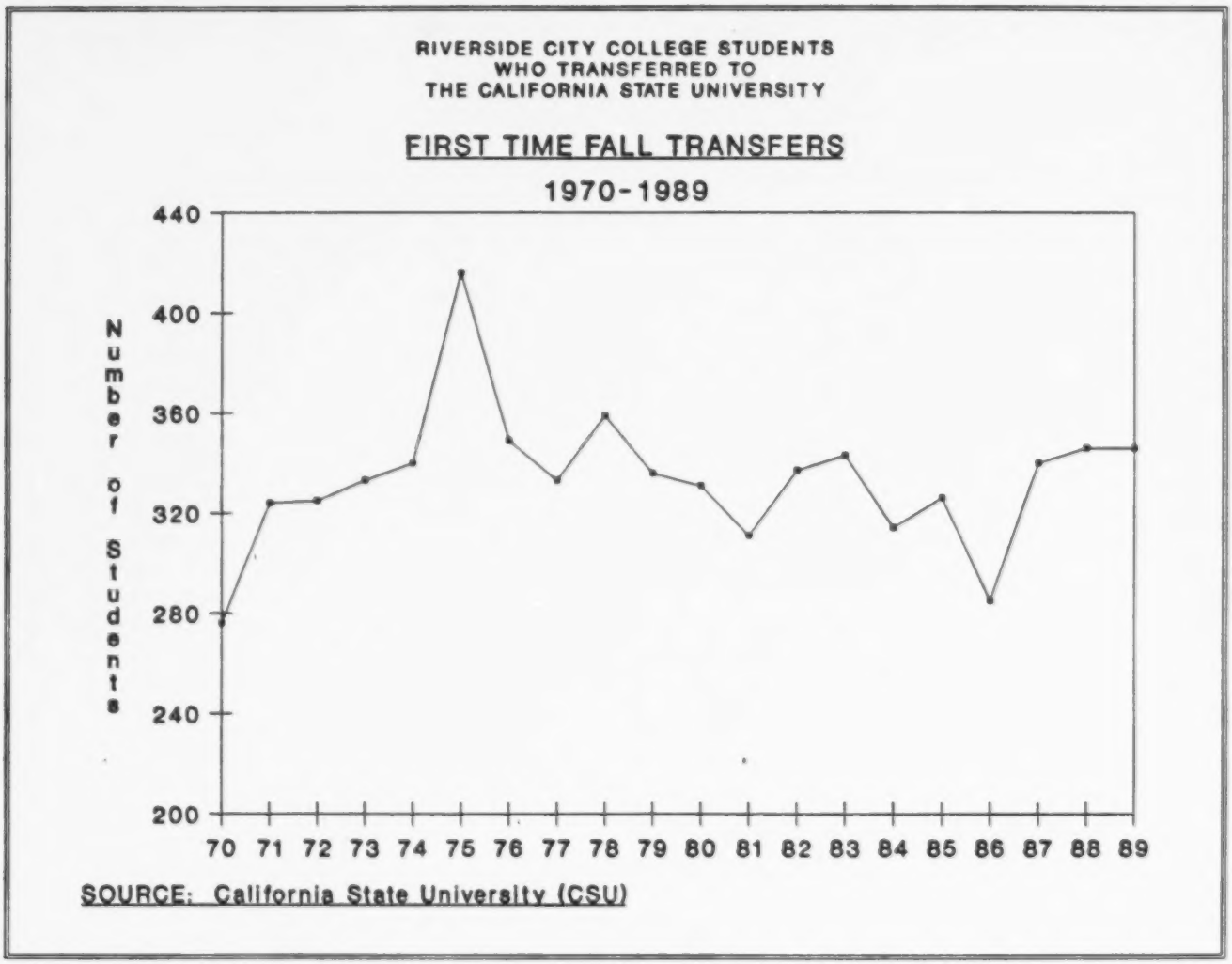


TABLE 1 RCC STUDENTS WHO TRANSFERRED TO CSU

YEAR	STUDENTS	YEAR	STUDENTS	YEAR	STUDENTS	YEAR	STUDENTS
1970	276	1975	416	1980	331	1985	326
1971	324	1976	349	1981	311	1986	285
1972	325	1977	333	1982	337	1987	340
1973	333	1978	359	1983	343	1988	346
1974	340	1979	336	1984	314	1989	346

Figure 2 illustrates the ups and downs of all California Community College students who transferred to CSU in the fall terms. The profile is similar to that of RCC transfers, with 1975 being the peak year; but statewide, 1986-1989 transfers have dropped below the numbers of 1970.

FIGURE 2

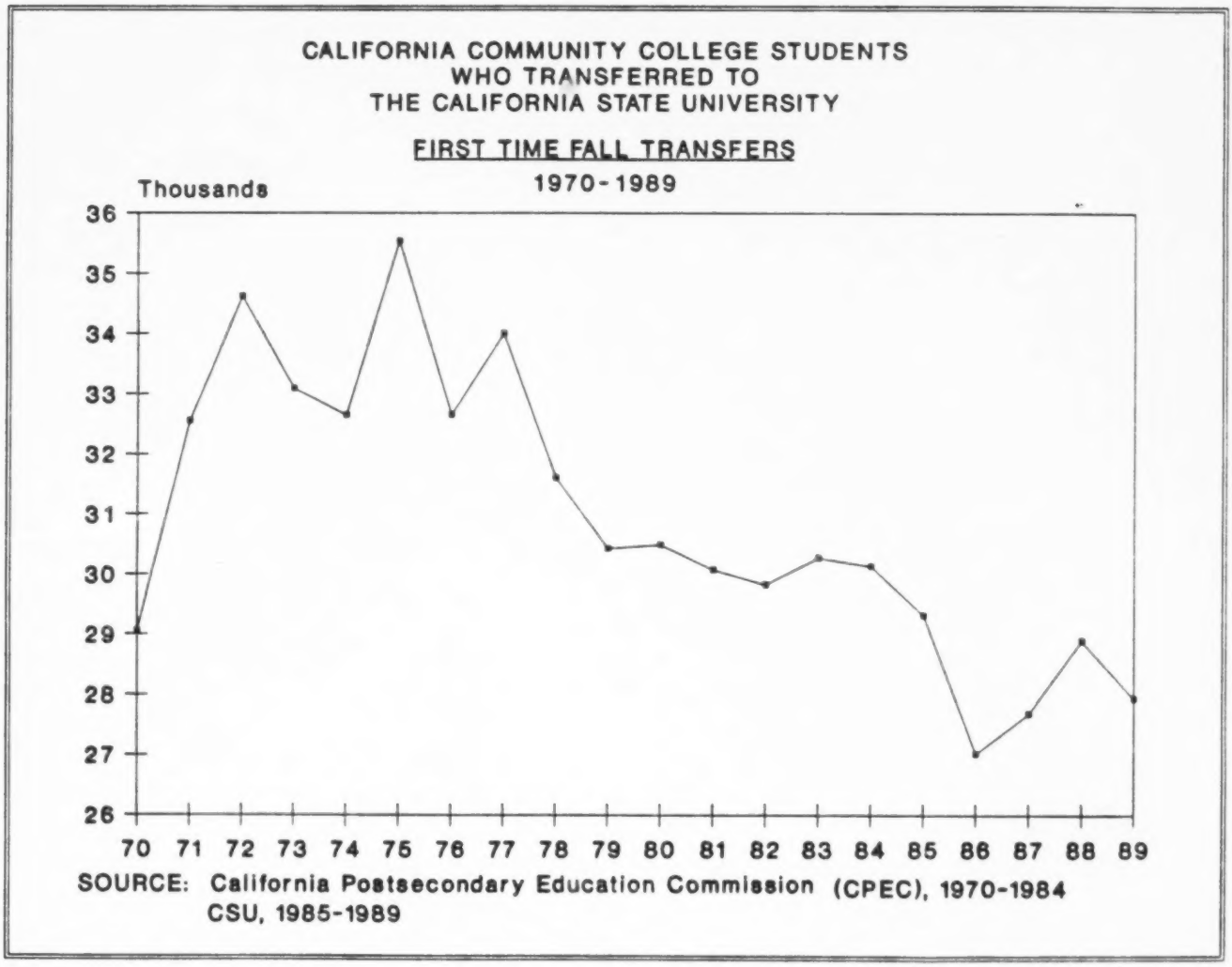


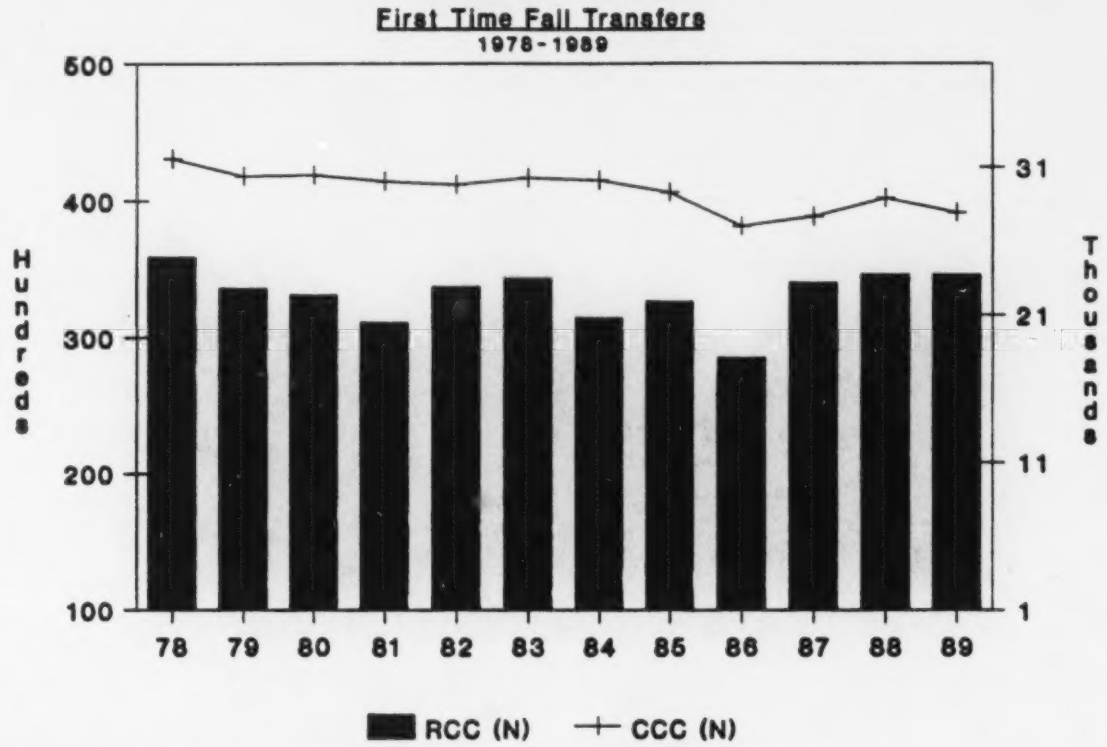
TABLE 2 ALL CCC STUDENTS WHO TRANFERRED TO CSU

YEAR	STUDENTS	YEAR	STUDENTS	YEAR	STUDENTS	YEAR	STUDENTS
1970	29,059	1975	35,537	1980	30,490	1985	29,320
1971	32,546	1976	32,653	1981	30,072	1986	27,018
1972	34,619	1977	34,001	1982	29,824	1987	27,684
1973	33,089	1978	31,609	1983	30,274	1988	28,900
1974	32,646	1979	30,428	1984	30,134	1989	27,942

Figure 3 compares the number of RCC students who transfer to CSU with all California Community College transfers. For the years 1979-81, our decline was steeper than statewide. However, in 1982, we showed an 8% increase, while statewide, there was a 1% decrease. In 1987, our increase was 19% compared with a statewide increase of only 2%. RCC's share of total transfers to CSU has ranged from 1.0% to 1.2% of all 107 California Community Colleges between 1978 and 1989.

FIGURE 3

RIVERSIDE CITY COLLEGE STUDENTS AND ALL CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS WHO TRANSFERRED TO CSU



SOURCE: CSU Reports for all RCC Figures & CCC Figures 1986-89
California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) for CCC Figures, 1978-84

TABLE 3

RCC STUDENTS AND ALL CCC STUDENTS WHO TRANSFERRED TO CSU

YEAR	RCC	CCC	YEAR	RCC	CCC
1978	359	31,609	1984	314	30,134
1979	336	30,428	1985	326	29,320
1980	331	30,490	1986	285	27,018
1981	311	30,072	1987	340	27,684
1982	337	29,824	1988	346	28,900
1983	343	30,274	1989	346	27,942

B. Campus of Transfer (Number of Students Admitted and Enrolled)

CAMPUS	NUMBER OF STUDENTS									
	F80	F81	F82	F83	F84	F85	F86	F87	F88	F89
BAKERSFIELD	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0
CHICO	1	5	4	3	3	3	2	1	4	3
DOMINGUEZ HILLS	1	0	1	4	2	1	2	1	2	0
FRESNO	6	3	2	7	2	5	2	2	4	0
FULLERTON	52	49	42	48	49	59	47	40	33	38
HAYWARD	2	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	3	1
HUMBOLDT	6	4	6	3	6	7	3	2	7	2
LONG BEACH	24	17	20	18	8	21	9	16	14	16
LOS ANGELES	7	2	7	6	3	2	6	4	3	7
NORTHRIDGE	4	12	5	4	2	4	3	2	3	2
POMONA	63	81	105	92	80	51	44	37	41	38
SACRAMENTO	8	5	3	5	2	0	2	4	1	1
SAN BERNARDINO	106	98	119	123	126	147	149	202	211	215
SAN DIEGO	37	18	9	15	17	14	8	13	7	16
SAN FRANCISCO	3	4	1	3	4	2	1	4	2	1
SAN JOSE	5	7	6	4	4	3	3	6	2	1
SAN LUIS OBISPO	3	4	3	6	3	4	0	2	5	4
SONOMA	2	0	1	2	1	3	1	1	3	1
STANISLAUS	0	2	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0
TOTALS	331	311	337	343	314	326	285	340	346	

SOURCE: CSU

TABLE 4

C. Composite Rank Order of Campus of Transfer, 1980-89

1.	San Bernardino	1496
2.	Pomona	632
3.	Fullerton	457
4.	Long Beach	163
5.	San Diego	154
6.	Los Angeles	47
7.	Humboldt	46
8.	Northridge	41
9.	San Jose	41
10.	San Luis Obispo	34
11.	Fresno	33
12	Sacramento	31
13.	Chico	29
14.	San Francisco	25
15.	Sonoma	15
16.	Dominguez Hills	14
17.	Hayward	10
18.	Stanislaus	7
19.	Bakersfield	4

SOURCE: CSU

TABLE 5

D. RCC Students Who Transferred in Fall Terms 1985-1989

Beginning with California Community College students who transferred to CSU in the fall term of 1985, CSU's reporting format was somewhat changed. It became possible to make better comparisons of RCC transfers with all California Community College transfers. These comparisons include numbers of transfers, continuation rates, grade point averages, grade point averages by major, and enrollment and retention by ethnicity. Rather than dividing the transfer students into two groups (regular admits and exceptional admits), as they did between 1980 and 1984, CSU has divided them into three groups: upper division transfers, lower division transfers, and lower division special action transfers, formerly known as "exceptional admits."

Upper Division Transfers:	Students entering CSU with 56 or more transferable semester units.
Lower Division Transfers:	Students entering CSU with fewer than 56 transferable semester units who would have been eligible on the basis of their high school records to enter CSU as first-time freshmen, but who chose to begin their higher education experience at a community college.
Lower Division Special Action:	These lower division transfer students were not eligible to enter CSU on the basis of their high school records as first time freshmen. They were admitted as exceptions to the regular CSU admissions requirements.

Not all categories of community college transfers are included. For example, foreign students in the United States with visas are not included. CSU grade point averages reflect all work attempted by transfer students during the first academic year following transfer.

CSU warns that because numbers from individual colleges in most categories are small and because the report covers a period of only one academic year at the CSU campus, caution should be exercised in drawing inferences from its data.

D.1 Upper Division, Lower Division and Special Action Transfers

Figures 4A and 4B compare the percentages of upper division, lower division, and special action transfers for both RCC and all California Community Colleges (CCCs). The differences between the two (RCC vs CCCs) have been small.

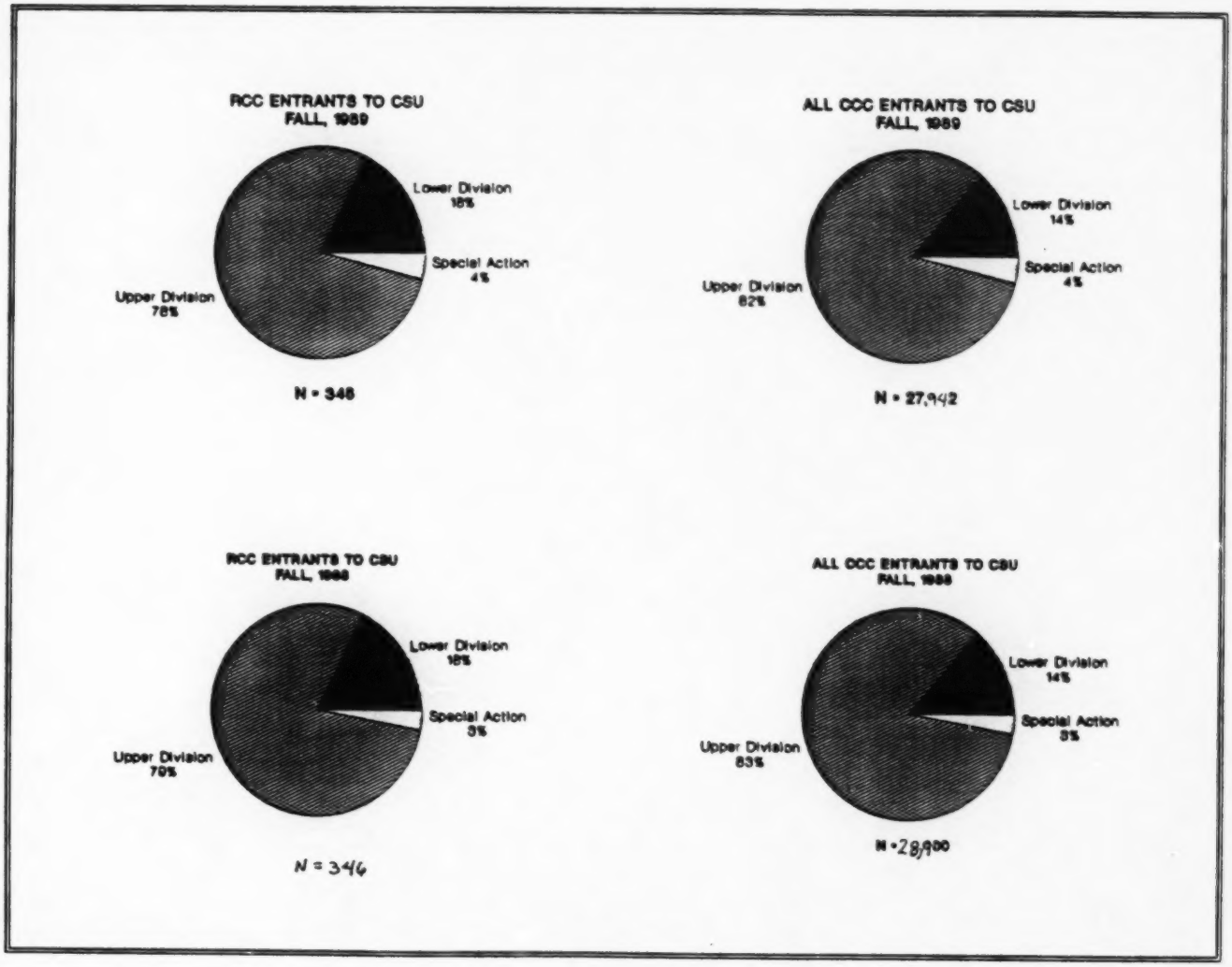
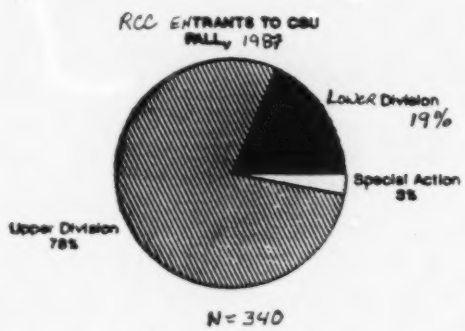
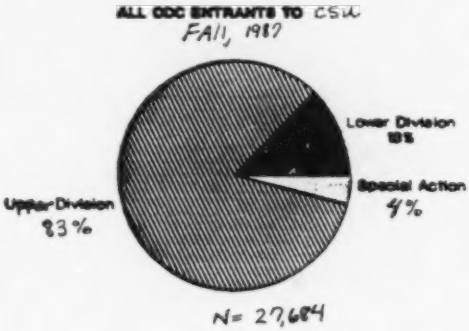
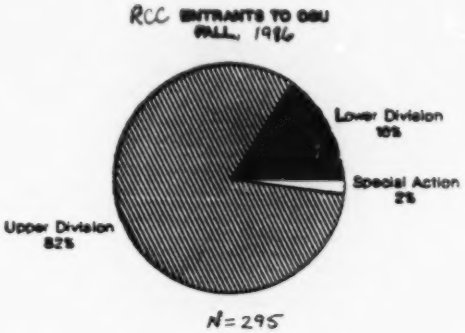


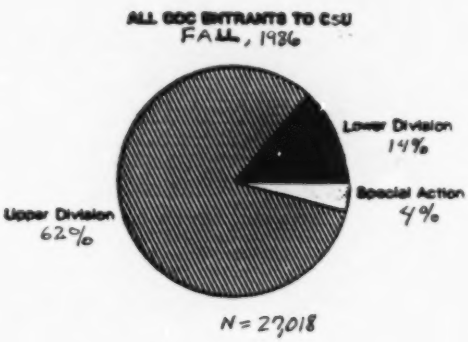
FIGURE 4A

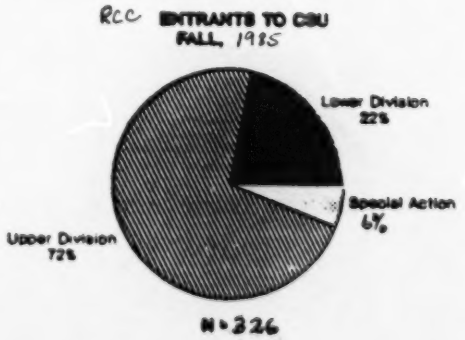
D.1 Upper Division, Lower Division and Special Action Transfers (Continued)











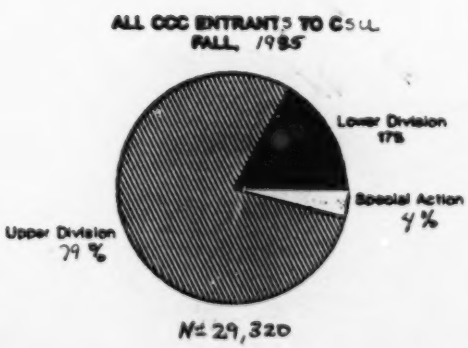


FIGURE 4B

D.2 Upper Division Transfers' GPAs

Figures 5A, 5B, 5C, 5D and 5E compare grade point averages earned at the community colleges and grade point averages earned after transferring to CSU.

In 1989, RCC students' grade point averages at CSU were higher than both CCC transfers and CSU natives. Their RCC GPA's improved slightly after transferring to CSU.

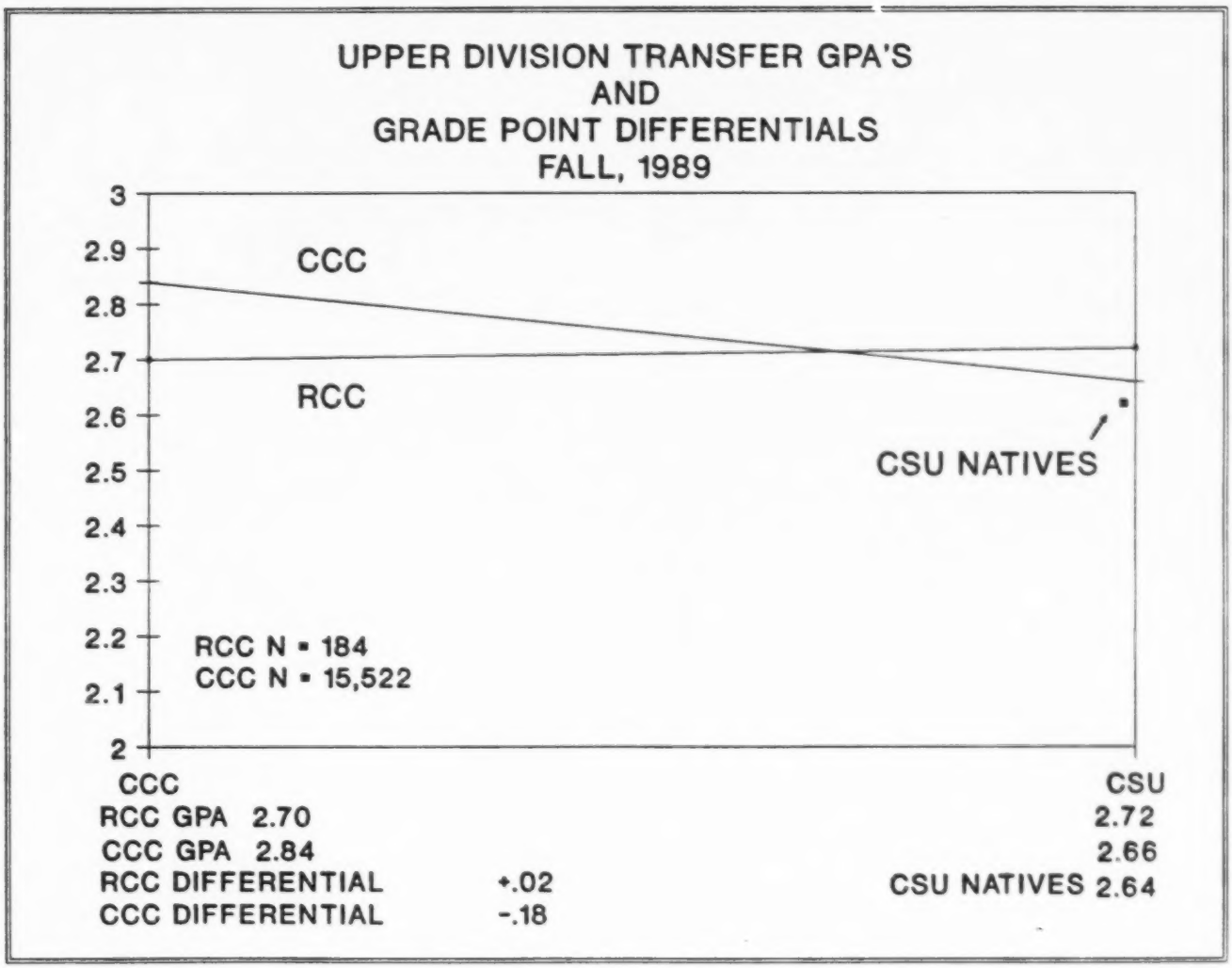


FIGURE 5A

D.2 Upper Division Transfers' GPAs (Continued)

In 1988, RCC students' GPAs dropped slightly upon transferring to CSU. However, their CSU GPAs were still higher than CCC transfers and CSU natives. The drop may signal an early alert to grade inflation creeping back at RCC.

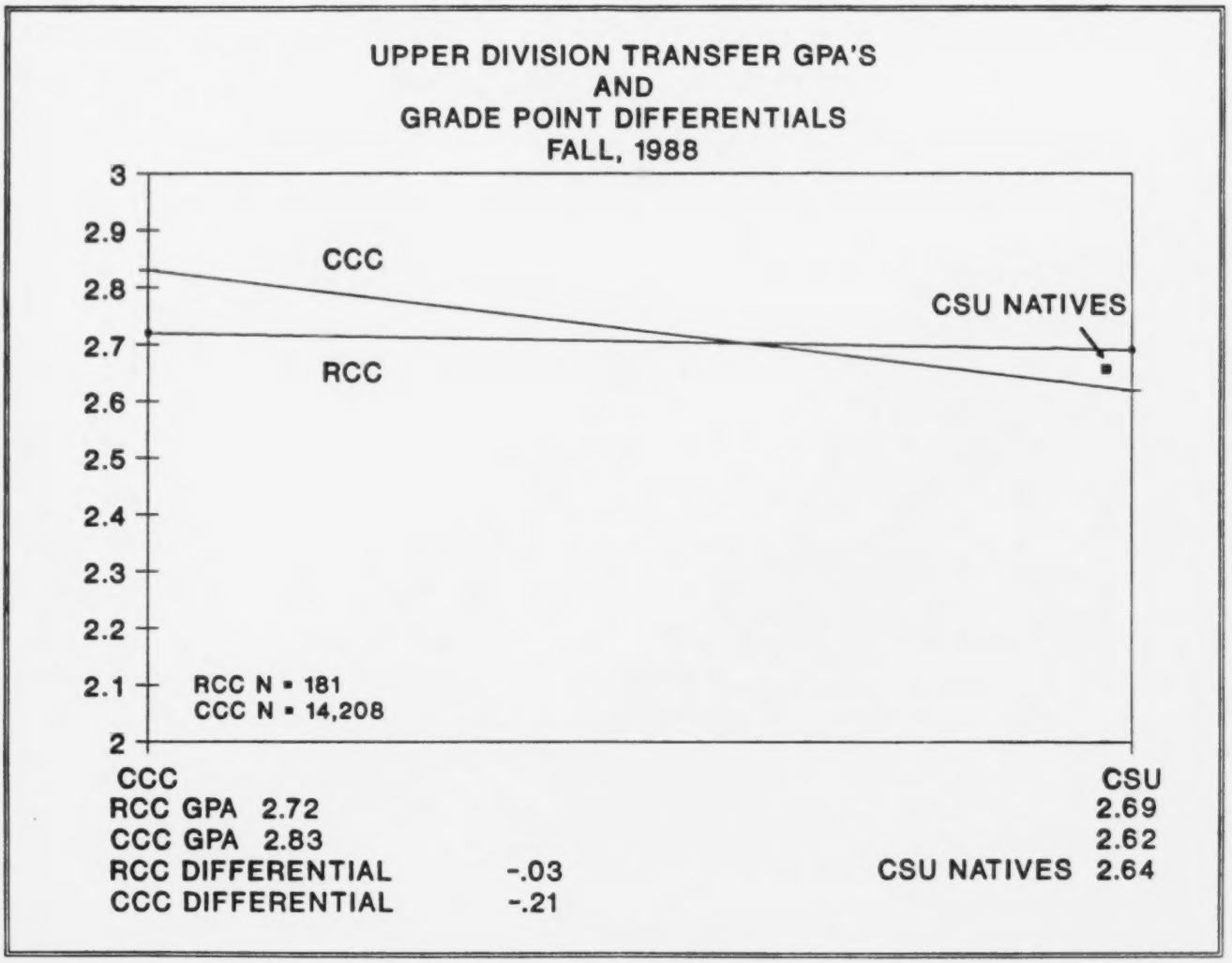


FIGURE 5B

D.2 Upper Division Transfers' GPAs (Continued)
Again in 1987, RCC students improved their GPAs upon transferring. They also had higher CSU GPAs than both CCC transfers and CSU natives.

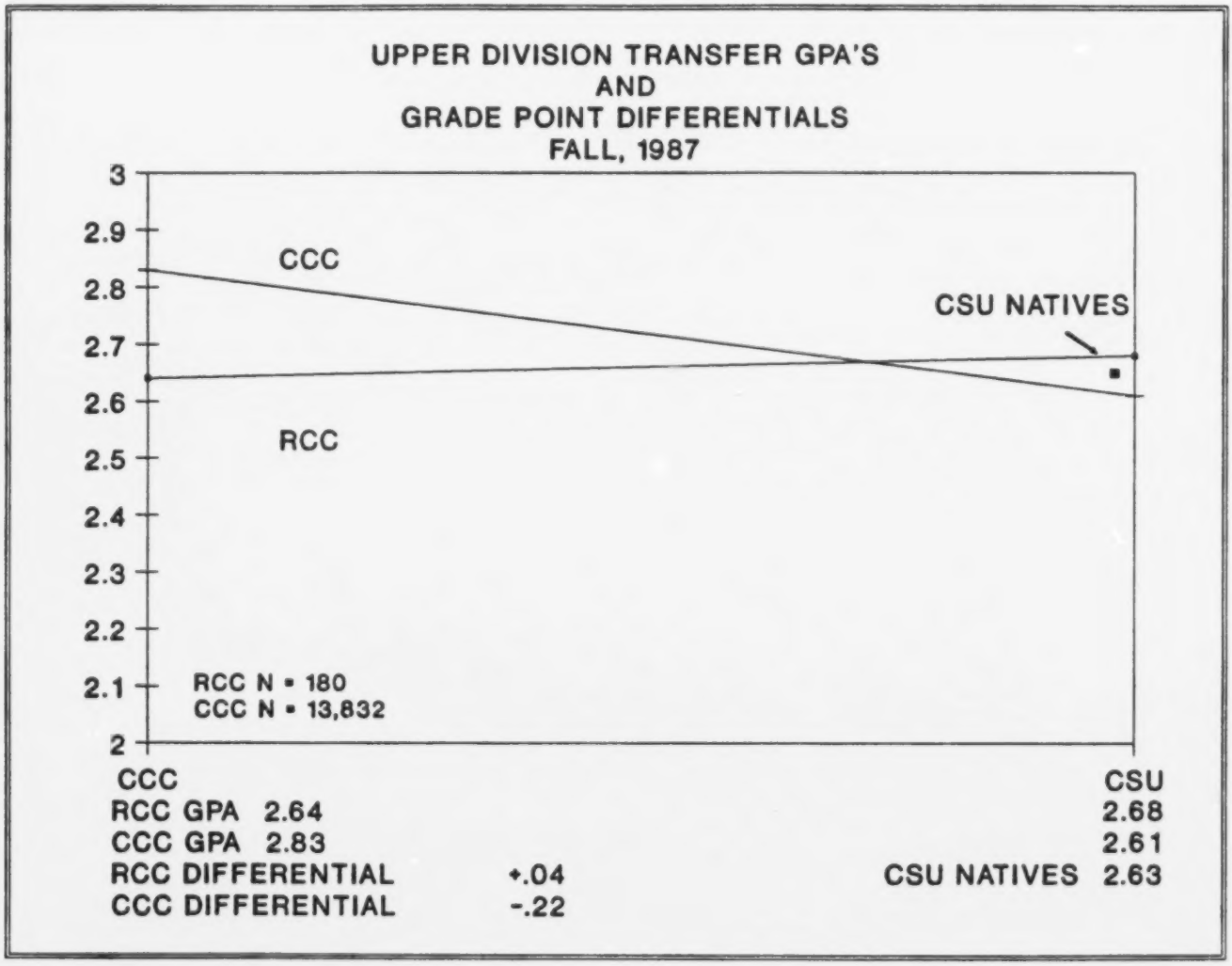


FIGURE 5C

D.2 Upper Division Transfers' GPAs (Continued)

In 1986, RCC students did better at CSU than they had at RCC (2.79 at RCC and 2.84 at CSU for a plus differential of 0.05). In the same year, 1986, all CCC students' GPAs dropped by .25 of a grade point after transferring. RCC students also did better at CSU than CSU natives (2.84 vs 2.64). (See Figure 5B)

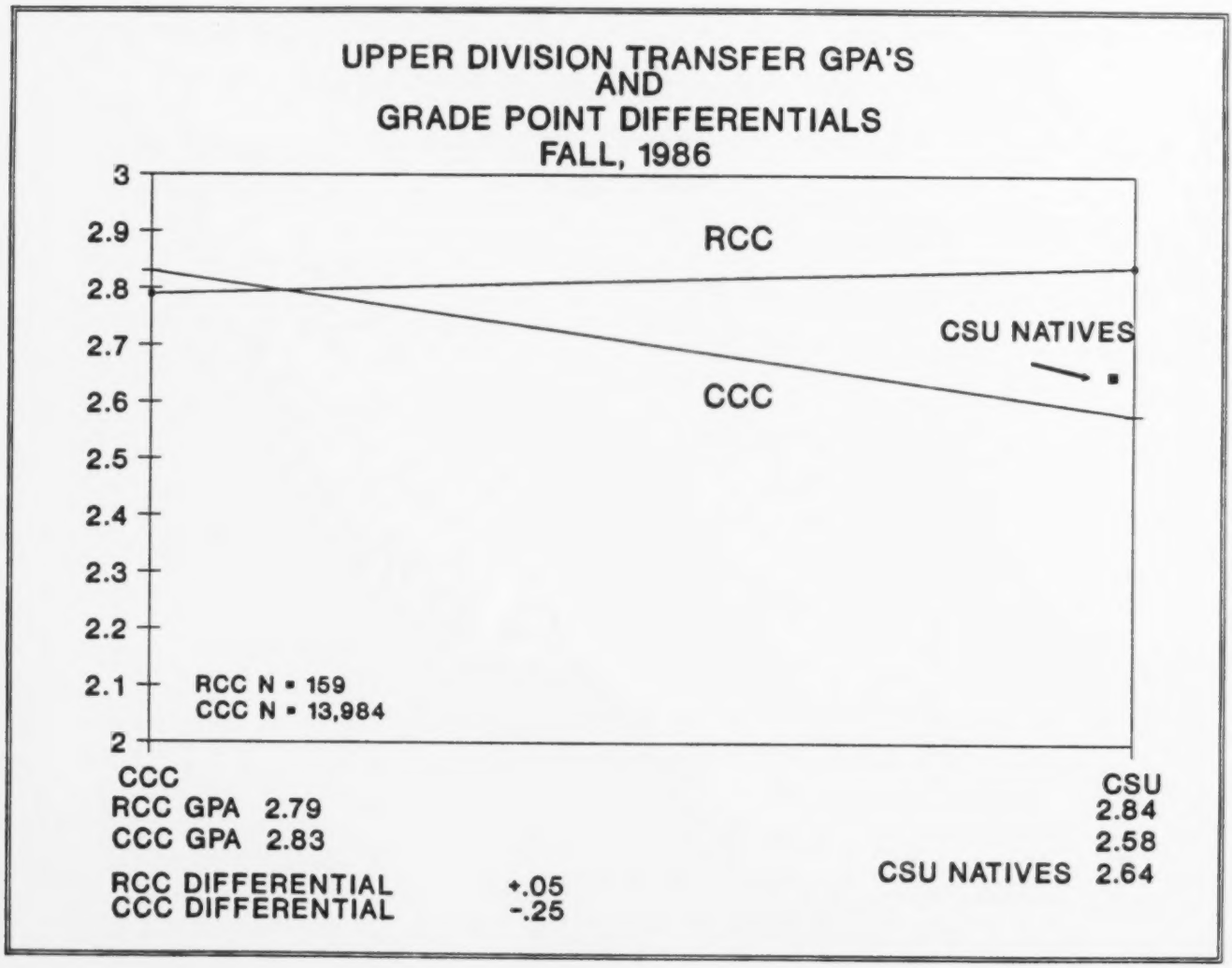


FIGURE 5D

D.2 Upper Division Transfers' GPAs (Continued)
In 1985, the differentials for RCC upper division transfers and all CC upper division transfers were virtually the same.

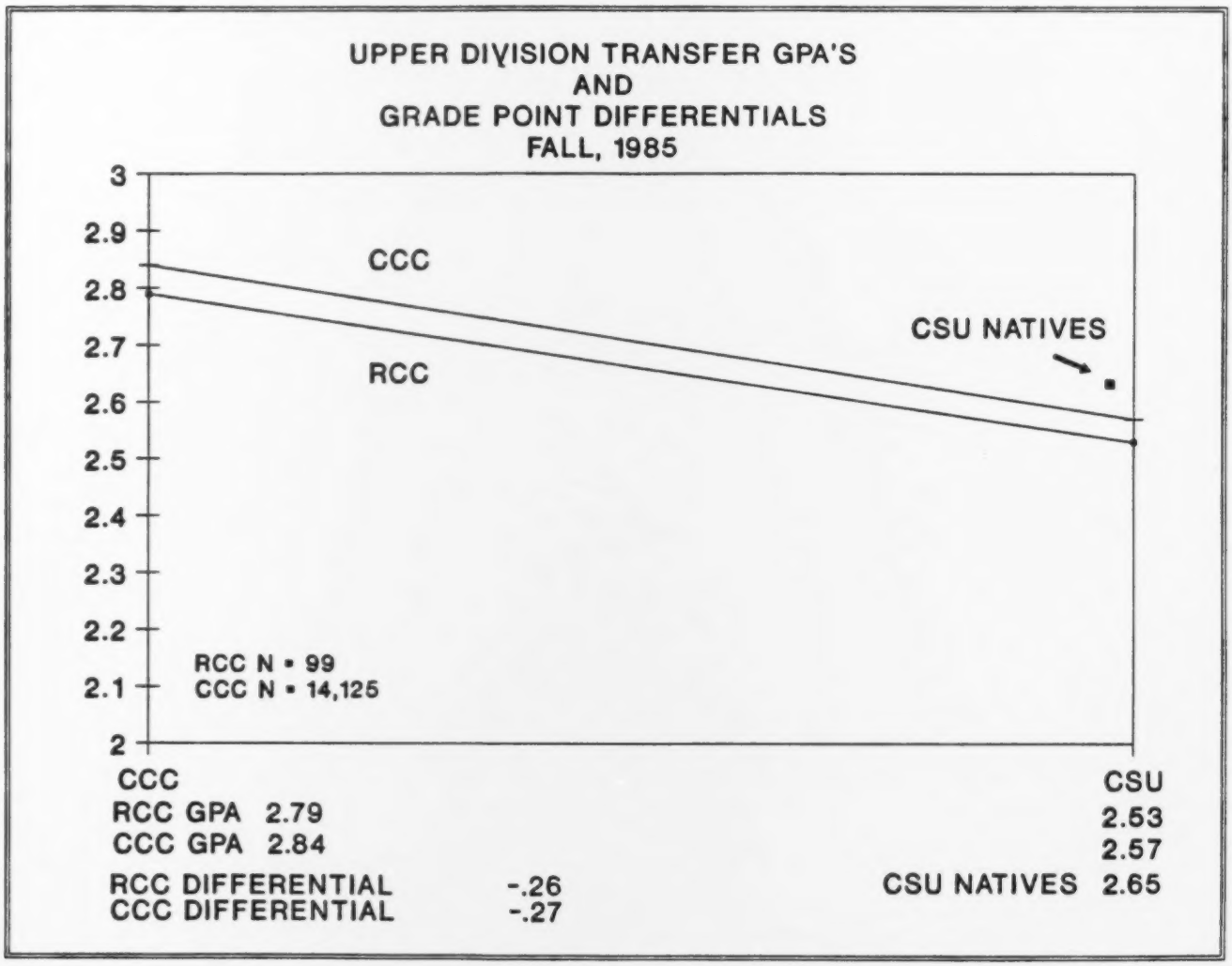
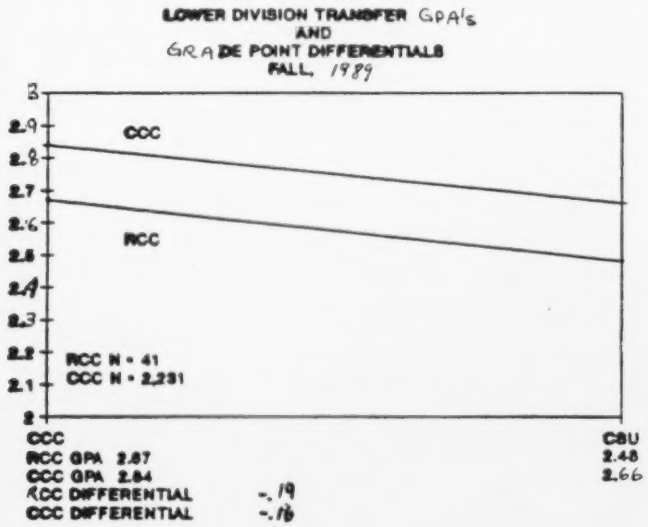
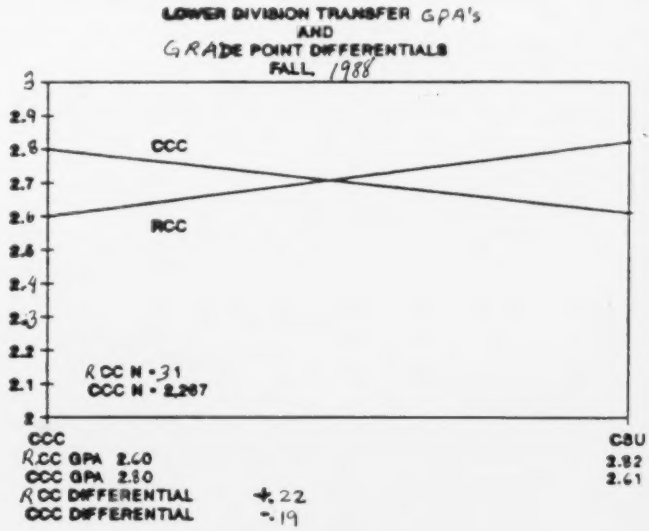


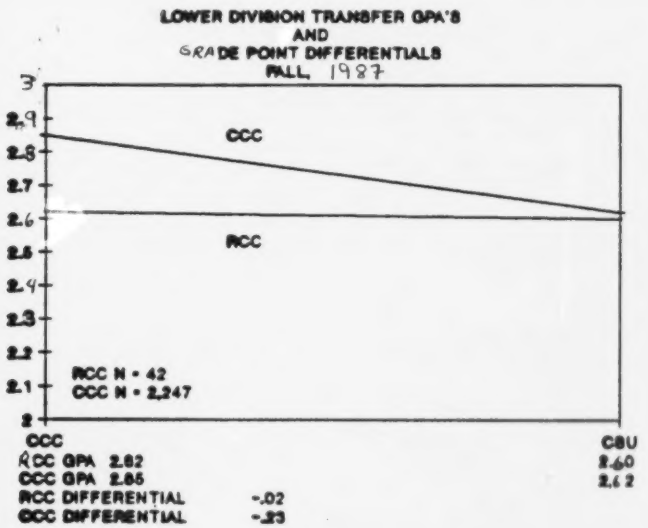
FIGURE 5E

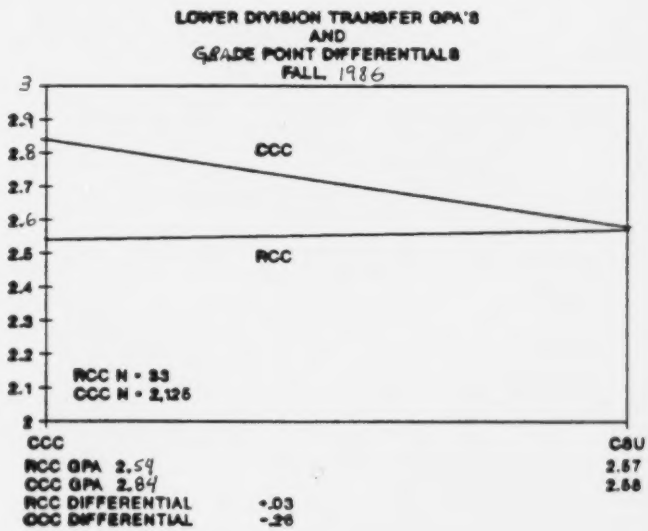
D.3 Lower Division Transfers' GPAs

Figure 6 shows RCC's lower division transfers doing better in 1986, 1987, and 1988 than community college students in general.









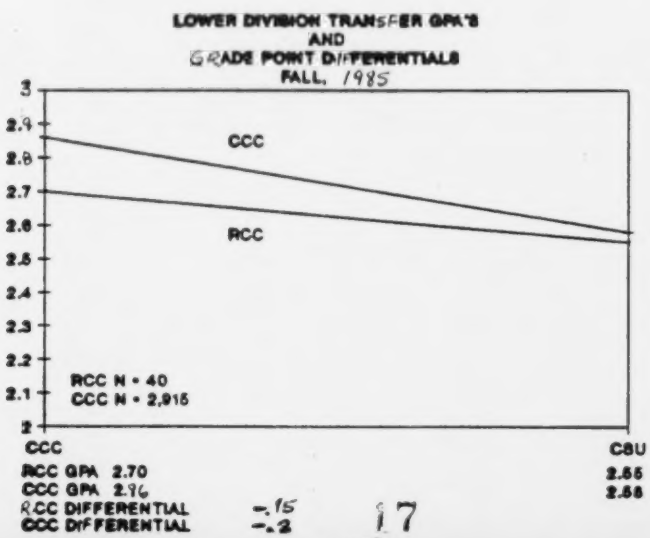
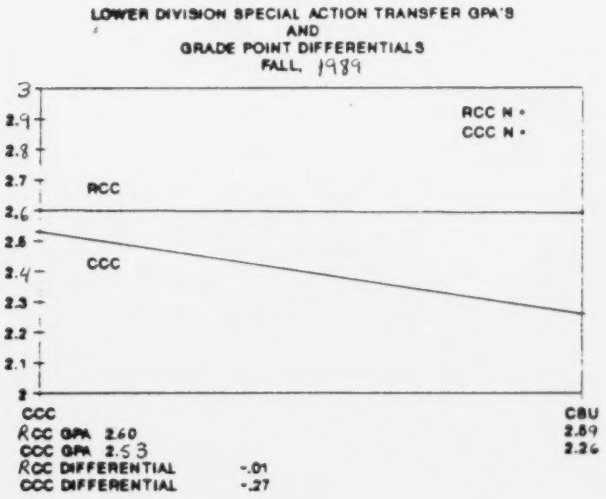
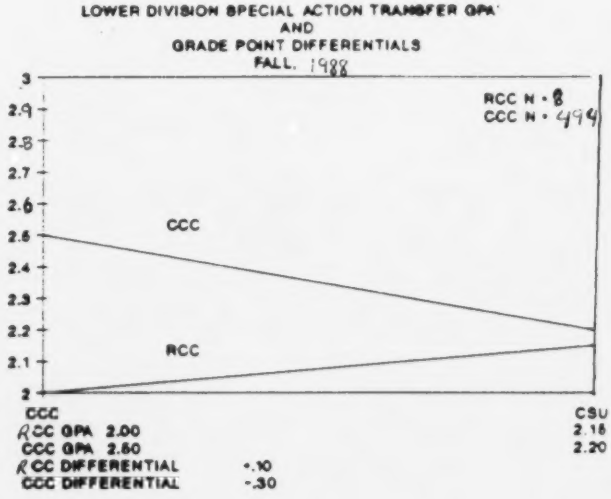


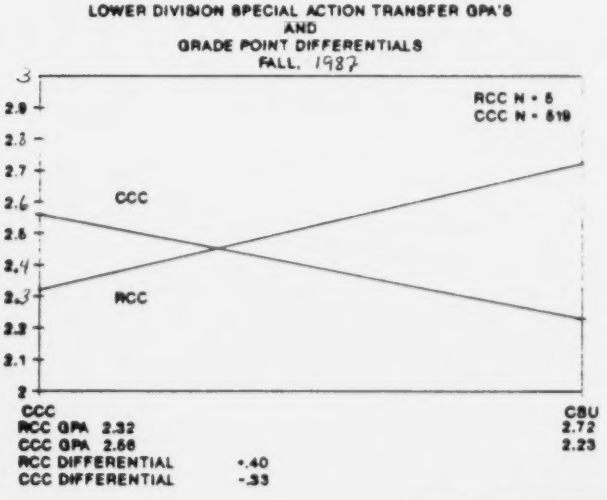
FIGURE 6

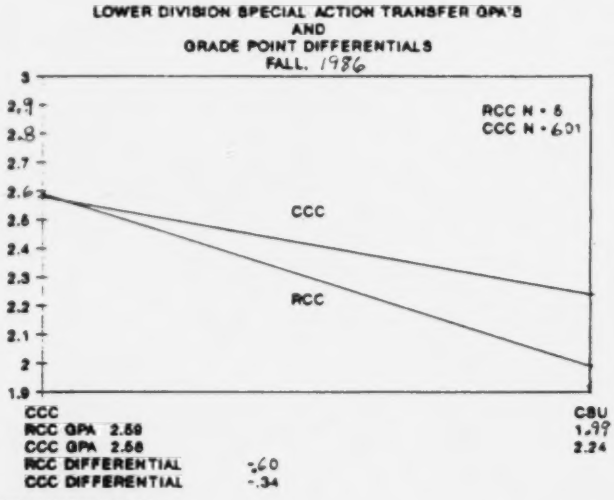
D.4 Special Action Transfers' GPAs

Figure 7 shows how our special action students did. In 1985, they did better after they transferred, but in 1986 they didn't do as well. However, with such small numbers (e.g. only 5 in 1986), one should not put much weight on the figures.









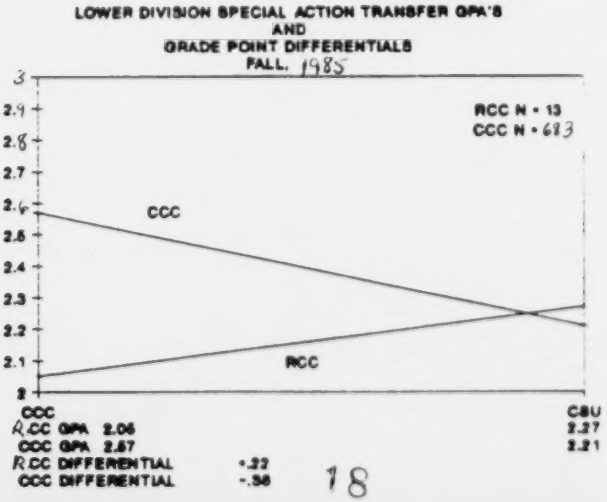


FIGURE 7

E. Majors

Table 6 displays majors of RCC upper division transfer students, 1985-1989. Business has been the most popular major, followed by Interdisciplinary Studies and Psychology. Note the majors that are in growth trends over the five-year period.

TABLE 6

RCC Upper Division Transfers by Major

Major	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	Totals
Agriculture	0	0	2	1	3	6
Architecture	0	0	1	2	3	6
Area Studies	0	0	0	0	0	0
Biological Science	7	3	7	8	5	30
Business	40	39	54	45	67	245
Communications	7	4	16	11	13	51
Computer Science	5	12	8	12	7	44
Education	7	7	9	7	9	39
Engineering	13	8	14	11	4	50
Fine Arts	6	11	10	7	12	46
Languages	0	0	0	2	0	2
Health	5	10	4	5	8	32
Home Economics	2	0	2	3	1	8
Interdisciplinary	11	20	30	31	47	139
Letters	6	5	8	4	2	25
Mathematics	4	5	6	2	3	20
Physical Science	2	1	3	3	2	11
Psychology	7	12	17	26	13	75
Public Affairs	6	5	7	5	11	34
Social Science	4	8	16	19	16	63
Undeclared	20	9	13	16	7	65
TOTAL	152	159	227	220	233	991

F. Ethnicity

Table 7A displays enrollment data by ethnicity for RCC transfers from 1985-1989.

TABLE 7A

RCC Transfers by Ethnicity, Numbers Enrolled

Ethnicity	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	Totals
American Indian	6	7	4	1	6	24
Asian	13	17	20	13	16	79
Black, Non-Hispanic	30	17	25	34	37	143
Filipino	2	0	5	3	4	14
Mexican American	22	23	17	22	24	108
Other Hispanic	3	6	3	5	8	25
Pacific Islander	0	2	4	0	1	7
White, Non-Hispanic	241	202	245	250	223	1161
Unknown	9	11	17	18	27	82
TOTAL	326	285	340	346	346	1643

Table 7B displays ethnicity by percentages of students enrolled. All of the ethnic groups are up and down from year to year. The only upward trend is for "unknown," which is unfortunate, because it skews the figures for each of the individual groups.

TABLE 7B

RCC Transfers by Ethnicity, Percent Enrolled

Ethnicity	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	Totals
American Indian	1.8%	2.5%	1.2%	.3%	1.7%	1.5%
Asian	4.0%	6.0%	5.9%	3.8%	4.6%	4.8%
Black, Non-Hispanic	9.2%	6.0%	7.4%	9.8%	10.7%	8.7%
Filipino	.6%		1.5%	.9%	1.2%	.9%
Mexican American	6.7%	8.1%	5.0%	6.4%	6.9%	6.6%
Other Hispanic	.9%	2.1%	.9%	1.4%	2.3%	1.5%
Pacific Islander		.7%	1.2%		.3%	.4%
White, Non-Hispanic	73.9%	70.9%	72.1%	72.3%	64.5%	70.7%
Unknown	2.8%	3.9%	5.0%	5.2%	7.8%	5.0%
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.1%

Figure 7C compares the five years of RCC transfer students, 1985-89, with five years of RCC native students, 1983-87. The reason for the difference in the time cohorts is to allow for a normal two-year period between a student's entrance at RCC and transfer to CSU.

The ethnic groupings are adjusted to conform to RCC reporting patterns. Again, the high number of the "other/unknown" category clouds the picture.

TABLE 7C

RCC NATIVE STUDENTS AND RCC TRANSFER STUDENTS TO CSU: A COMPARISON

Ethnicity	RCC Natives 1983-87	RCC Transfers To CSU 1985-89
American Indian	2.3%	1.5%
Asian/Pacific Islander	3.0%	5.2%
Black	9.6%	8.7%
White	69.1%	70.7%
Hispanic	11.8%	8.1%
Filipino	.9%	.9%
Other/Unknown	3.3%	5.0%
	100.0%	100.1%

Obviously, the group that needs the most encouragement to transfer is the Hispanic. There is also a slight drop for American Indians and Blacks. Whites and Asians show an increase.

G. SUMMARY

From the myriad statistics and comparisons that are possible, there are a few observations that are worthy of note.

Enrollment

While RCC experienced a 17% drop in the number of students transferring to CSU in the fall terms between 1975 and 1989, all California Community Colleges (CCCs) had a 21% decline in the same period. Between fall, 1986 and fall, 1987, RCC had a 19% increase in the number of CSU transfers while all CCCs recorded only a 2% increase. (Figures 1 and 2, pages 1 and 2).

Quality of Instruction

Although much of the report covers lower division transfers and special action students, much more weight should be put on upper division transfers. About four out of five of RCC and CCC transfers are to the upper division (Figure 4, Pages 6 and 7)

One of the primary indicators of quality instruction is the grade point average differential: that is the difference between students' GPAs at the community college and, subsequently, at CSU.

In 1980, RCC was suffering from grade inflation. Therefore, our transfers experienced quite a drop in their GPAs after transferring to CSU. We identified the problem and started working on it. President Charles Kane suggested to the deans and department chairs that instead of the "A" grade being the most commonly given grade, which it was at the time, instructors should work toward the goal of giving more "Cs" than "Bs" and more "Bs" than "As." As a result, between 1980 and 1984, our grade point average differential was reduced from a minus .32 to a minus .10 for our regular admits. By the fall of 1986, the average RCC GPA for our upper division CSU transfers was 2.79. After transferring, it rose to 2.84 at CSU, a plus GPA differential of .05. By comparison, all CCC students earned a 2.83 at their community colleges and a 2.58 at CSU, a minus GPA differential of .25, or a quarter of a grade point. (See figure 5D, page 11.)

For fall, 1987, the GPA differential was +.04 for RCC and -.32 for all CCCs. In the fall of 1988, the RCC GPA differential slipped over to the minus side (-.03) for the first time in several years, indicating a need to once again contain grade inflation. This -.03 may be compared with all CCC's GPA differential of -.21. In 1989, RCC returned to a plus differential of +.02. For the last four years, RCC upper division transfers have had higher GPAs upon transferring to CSU than either all CCC transfers or CSU natives.

We are trying to make RCC grades realistic, close to what students can expect at the CSU. Although community colleges are multi-purpose institutions and do not have selective admissions policies as does CSU, nevertheless, the CCCs' transfer courses and programs should be equivalent and parallel to those at the CSU. The evidence suggests that RCC is succeeding.

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